

REMARKS

Applicant appreciates the thorough review of the Application by the Examiner.

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are requested.

By this amendment, Claim 1 is amended to correct the formal matters identified by the Examiner and for clarity. This amendment should overcome the objection to this claim due to lack of antecedent basis. The amendment also clarifies that the screen roller is driven by a motor when the printing machine is not operating and by the transmission of the printing machine when the printing machine is operating (Specification, Page 3, lines 10-30). This ensures perfect synchronization with the printing machine during operation while allowing for continuous rotation of the roller to prevent evaporation. No new matter has been added by this amendment.

Claim 7 is amended similarly to Claim 1.

Claims 1 - 10 remain pending in the application, including Independent Claims 1 and 7.

Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 10 are patentable under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Leimand (WO 99/01282).

For an invention to be anticipated, it must be demonstrated that each and every element of the claimed invention is present in the "four corners" of a single prior art, either expressly described therein or under the principle of inherency. Lewmar Marine Inc. v Barient Inc., 3 USPQ2d 1766, 1767-1768 (Fed. Cir. 1987) (emphasis added). The absence from a prior art reference of any claimed element negates anticipation. Kloster Speedsteel AB v. Crucible, Inc., 230 USPQ 81, 84 (Fed. Cir. 1986).

Claim 1 is distinguished from Leimand at least in that it teaches that the screen roller is arranged for swinging in and out of engagement with the rubber sheet cylinder, that the screen

roller is arranged for continuous rotation by engaging a motor in a situation where the printing machine is not operating and by engaging a transmission of the printing machine when the printing machine is operating, that the inking unit is adapted for being mounted in a support holder of the printing machine for a washing facility for a rubber sheet on the rubber sheet cylinder, and that the rubber sheet cylinder has an axially oriented channel limited by a front edge and a rear edge of the rubber sheet. Leimand does not teach or suggest these features.

The Examiner argues that Leimand teaches a rubber sheet cylinder, identified as element 14, and that Leimand teaches an inking unit 24 arranged for swinging in and out of engagement with the rubber sheet cylinder 14. Applicant cannot agree. The Figures clearly show the inking unit 24 is in engagement with plate cylinder 15 and not at any time with rubber sheet cylinder 14.

Claim 1 as amended also teaches that the screen roller is arranged for continuous rotation by engaging a motor in a situation where the printing machine is not operating and by engaging a transmission of the printing machine when the printing machine is operating. Leimand does not teach a screen roller arranged for continuous rotation by engaging a transmission of the printing machine when the printing machine is operating, nor does the Examiner argue otherwise.

The Examiner argues that Leimand teaches an inking unit 24 adapted for being mounted in the support holder of the printing machine for a washing facility for the rubber sheet. First of all, the claim requires that the inking unit is adapted for mounting in the support holder for the washing facility for a rubber sheet on the rubber sheet cylinder. Leimand clearly does not teach or suggest this. The Figures show the elements in contact with plate cylinder 15 and not rubber sheet cylinder 14. Second, element 24 is not taught to be mounted in the support holder for a washing facility. Rather, unit 28 is capable of replacing cleaning arrangement 33. The lines

cited to by the Examiner (lines 10-15 of Page 8) do not appear to have anything to do with the claim limitation at issue.

Furthermore, Claim 1 requires that the rubber sheet cylinder has an axially oriented channel limited by a front edge and a rear edge of the rubber sheet. Leimand does not teach or suggest this limitation, nor does the Examiner suggest otherwise.

At least because Leimand does not teach or suggest each and every limitation of Claim 1, Claim 1 is patentable over Leimand. Claims 2 - 5 depend from Claim 1 and add further patentable limitations.

Claim 7 differs from Leimand at least in that it teaches that the screen roller is continuously rotated by engaging a motor in a situation where the printing machine is not operating and by engaging a transmission of the printing machine when the printing machine is operating, that the screen roller is arranged for swinging in and out of engagement with the rubber sheet cylinder, that the rubber sheet cylinder has an axially oriented channel limited by a front edge and a rear edge of a rubber sheet, and that the inking unit is displaced in a support holder of the printing machine for a washing facility for the rubber sheet on the rubber sheet cylinder for mounting and dismounting, respectively, by substituting with the washing facility. Similar arguments apply to Claim 7 as were given with regard to Claim 1 above. Claims 8 - 10 depend from Claim 7 and add further patentable limitations.

For at least the above reasons, the rejections of Claims 1 - 5 and 7 - 10 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) over Leimand is improper and should be withdrawn.

Claim 6 is patentable under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Small (U.S. Patent 3,115,904) in view of Brehm (U.S. Patent 4,223,604).

Claim 6 depends from Claim 5 and shares its patentable limitations and adds further patentable features. Numerous elements of Claim 6 are not taught by any of the references. For example, Claim 6 teaches guide grooves and auxiliary guide grooves adapted for receiving the washing facility/inking unit at a position situated under carrier handles formed at an upper side of the tool, preferably on the side plates, and which is used for lifting when mounting and dismounting the washing facility and the inking unit. The Examiner does not argue otherwise.

Claims 6 also teaches two side plates that each are provided with positioning means interacting with corresponding positioning means in the support holder of the printing machine and auxiliary guide grooves that are aligned with the guide grooves in the support holder of the printing machine when the positioning means engage. No references teach or suggest these features. The Examiner argues that "Small teaches a tool comprising a plurality of plates and grooves found within the plates." However, a plurality of plates with grooves do not read on the claim limitations of two side plates each with auxiliary guide grooves aligned with guide grooves in the support holder of the printing machine when positioning means engage.

Furthermore, Small is non-analogous art and cannot render the present invention obvious because it is neither in the field of Applicant's endeavor, nor reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned. Small should be removed as a reference. Small is in the field of a clip forming and fastening device for fastening together a plurality of articles by bearing against the upper and lower surface of the top and bottom articles without puncturing them (i.e. paperclips and the like). Small has nothing to do with, and is not in the field of, flexographic printing.

Small is not reasonably pertinent to the particular problem faced by Applicant. The particular problem solved by the present application is the design of an inking unit that is easily mounted and dismounted so that rapid switching between a washing unit and the inking unit is possible, that rotates continuously to prevent evaporation but is synchronized with the printing machine, and that fully lacquers a first sheet moving through the printing machine, and Small has nothing to do with that. Small is not reasonably pertinent to that problem because it does not, because of the matter with which it deals, logically commend itself to an inventor's attention in considering this problem. See Wang Laboratories Inc. v. Toshiba Corp., 993 F.2d 858, 26 USPQ2d 1767 (Fed. Cir. 1993). Small has nothing to do with flexographic printing at all. No inventor would ever think to look to Small for solutions to flexographic printing problems.

Because Small is neither in the field of Applicant's endeavor, nor reasonably pertinent to the particular problem with which the applicant was concerned, it is non-analogous art and should be removed as a reference.

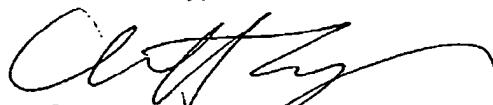
Furthermore, Small and Brehm could not be combined. Brehm is a quick-acting clamping device for rapid clamping of flexible printing plates on the printing cylinder of rotary printing presses. Brehm is completely different from Small, with a different purpose and method of operation, and considering the devices as a whole, no one would think to combine them. Nor would such a combination be likely to succeed.

For at least the reasons given above, the rejection of Claim 6 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) over Small in view of Brehm is improper and should be withdrawn.

CONCLUSION

Reconsideration and allowance of all claims are respectfully requested.

Respectfully,



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